

Filed for intro on 03/09/95
Senate Bill _____
By _____

House No. HJR0148
By Kent

A RESOLUTION to honor Jabie and Helen Hardin of Memphis for their outstanding philanthropic efforts.

WHEREAS, it is not often that a community is blessed with truly dedicated humanitarians such as Jabie and Helen Hardin, and it is therefore fitting and proper that the members of this Assembly should honor the dedication and devotion of these two citizens who have enhanced the quality of life for the many who have been touched by their good works; and

WHEREAS, endowed with an exceedingly rare combination of generosity and a genuine concern for others, Jabie and Helen Hardin have been at the forefront of countless philanthropic efforts in Memphis for many years; and

WHEREAS, Jabie Hardin first came to Memphis in 1928 to attend the University of Tennessee, from which he graduated in 1931 with a degree in pharmacy; and

WHEREAS, upon graduation, Mr. Hardin returned to Georgia to practice pharmacy, but our state was surely blessed when he returned to Memphis a few years later to marry his beloved Helen; and

WHEREAS, giving wings to their entrepreneurial spirit, the Hardins began their own distribution company in 1936, and by 1972, this tremendously successful company merged with

the Sysco Corporation to form a well-known national food service and medical supplies conglomerate; and

WHEREAS, in addition to their immense business success, the Hardins are known as incredible visionaries, working tirelessly to assure the growth and development of educational and cultural opportunities in the community they dearly love; and

WHEREAS, their charitable initiatives at the University of Memphis have enabled the school to move forward in its quest for excellence; and

WHEREAS, thanks to the Hardin family, the University of Memphis boasts two additional Chairs of Excellence, endowments that will enrich the academic programs of two distinct disciplines; and

WHEREAS, in 1993, Mr. and Mrs. Hardin made a significant contribution to endow the Chair of Excellence in Combinatoric Mathematics, a tribute to their only son, the late J.S. Hardin, III, a mathematics scholar, senior programmer analyst, and a pioneer in the development of versatile databases; and

WHEREAS, their generosity to the University of Memphis seems virtually endless as the Hardins most recently endowed the Chair of Excellence for the Lionel Linder Center for Urban Journalism, and their gift will provide the means to attract a top journalist with a background in journalism, economics, and managerial journalism to head the center; and

WHEREAS, crusaders, advocates, and true friends of a great number of organizations and causes, the Hardins are important benefactors of Rhodes College, the Memphis Botanic Garden, and have established a college scholarship fund for high school students in Columbia County, Georgia, where Mr. Hardin's father was school superintendent; and

WHEREAS, Jabie and Helen Hardin's unreserved contributions throughout the Memphis community also include a recent substantial gift to the Memphis Zoo; and

WHEREAS, benefiting from the Hardins' endless kindness last Thanksgiving, more than 3,000 needy people in the Memphis area benefited from Mr. and Mrs. Hardin's work with the Rendezvous Restaurant to provide meals for them; and

WHEREAS, it is only appropriate that the elected representatives of the state of Tennessee wish to acknowledge their profound appreciation and gratitude to two of Tennessee's most generous and esteemed citizens, Jabie and Helen Hardin; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we hereby honor Mr. and Mrs. Jabie Hardin for a lifetime of service to the Memphis community and our great state.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.